CONVEYANCE

Flexible and efficient movement of water through the Bay-Delta system – conveyance – is integral to achieving CALFED's water supply reliability goals. Modification of the existing conveyance system also benefits the ecosystem, water quality, and levee system integrity within the Bay-Delta system. CALFED has met all of the first year commitments for through-Delta conveyance, and North and South Delta conveyance, including the following actions:

- Began studies related to the operation of the Delta Cross Channel gates to address fishery and water quality issues in the North Delta region.
- Completed 90 percent of the design work for the Tracy Fish Test Facility that will provide important information on the effectiveness of the South Delta fish screening program.
- Installed temporary barriers to improve fish migration and water supply reliability in the South Delta region until fully operable barriers are constructed under the South Delta Improvement Program.
- Developed a study plan for evaluating a screened diversion on the Sacramento River.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: The goal for Delta conveyance is to identify and implement conveyance features that will improve water supply reliability for in-Delta and export water users, support continuous improvement in drinking water quality, and complement ecosystem restoration. To accomplish this, improvements are needed in the pumping operations of the State Water Project (SWP) export facilities to reliably provide diversion capability up to 10,300 cubic feet per second (cfs). Agricultural and fish barriers are also needed to enhance diversion capabilities by South Delta farmers and enhance fish migration. Dredging is planned to improve channel depth and water flow for navigation and agricultural purposes. The goals for North and South Delta improvements are designed to address flood control, water quality, fisheries enhancement, and water supply reliability.

The ROD adopts a through-Delta approach for water conveyance improvements and water quality enhancement. The strategy is to improve the Delta's ecological health prior to or concurrent with significant construction actions and to obtain scientific data on the best operational practices to protect fish. This is best illustrated with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Tracy Fish Test Facility (TFTF), that, when completed in early 2003, will be the most advanced test facility of its kind, providing research data on screening facilities in the Delta. The CALFED agencies will be able to determine the best methods of protecting fish near pump intakes and for handling and transporting fish from the screening facilities.